

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-15 and 20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 9 are independent claims. Claims 6-7, 16-19 and 21 are withdrawn from consideration and have been canceled by this reply. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

REASONS FOR ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment reduces the issues on appeal by overcoming the prior art of record. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that Applicants did not fully appreciate the Examiner's position until the Final Office Action was reviewed.

ELECTION RESTRICTION

The Examiner has withdrawn claims 6-7, 16-19 and 21 from consideration. Applicants have canceled claims 6-7, 16-19 and 21 by this Reply.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-5, 8-15 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 00RE37591E to Shimada et al. (Shimada). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a display panel including a first substrate having an array region and an array peripheral region, and a second substrate having a black matrix, including a light leakage prevention film formed between the gate lines and/or data lines of the array peripheral region, for preventing light leakage in areas where said black matrix is not formed, the array peripheral region excluding pixel electrodes.

Claim 9 has been similarly amended to recite a combination of elements in a method for manufacturing a display panel including a first substrate having an array region and an array peripheral region, and a second substrate having a black matrix, including forming a light leakage prevention film between the gate lines and/or the data lines of the array peripheral region to prevent light leakage in areas where said black matrix is not formed, the array peripheral region excluding pixel electrodes.

Applicants respectfully submit that these combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1 and 9 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Shimada.

The Examiner states that Shimada discloses that it is conventional to use a black matrix as a light shielding film on the counter substrate. However, the **Shimada patent seeks to avoid using a black matrix** on the counter substrate because of the problems associated therewith. The major disadvantage recited therein is high production costs. In other words, omitting the formation of a light-shielding film on the counter substrate is an effective way of reducing production costs (see Shimada, Col. 2, lines 38-41). Therefore, Shimada teaches away from a combination of a black matrix with the other elements recited therein. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Shimada reference as the Examiner proposes.

Particularly, Shimada fails to teach or suggest a combination of elements in a display panel including a first substrate having an array region and an array peripheral region, and a second substrate having a black matrix, including a light leakage prevention film formed between the gate lines and/or data lines of the array peripheral region, for preventing light leakage in areas where said black matrix is not formed, the array peripheral region excluding pixel electrodes, as recited in independent claim 1, as amended, or a combination of elements in a method for manufacturing a display panel including a first substrate having an array region and an array peripheral region, and a second substrate having a

black matrix, including forming a light leakage prevention film between the gate lines and/or the data lines of the array peripheral region to prevent light leakage in areas where said black matrix is not formed, the array peripheral region excluding pixel electrodes, as recited in independent claim 9, as amended.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 2-5, 8, 10-15 and 20, Applicants submit that claims 2-5, 8, 10-15 and 20 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 9, which are allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 2-5, 8, 10-15 and 20 are allowable based on their dependence from claims 1 and 9. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicit an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

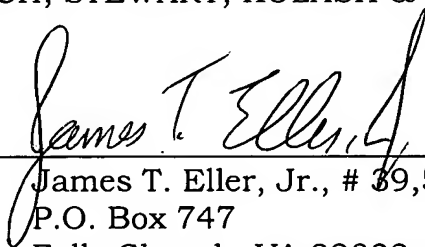
Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Percy L. Square (Registration No. 51,084 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASH & BIRCH, LLP

By



James T. Eller, Jr., # 39,538

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22032-0747

(703) 205-8000


JTE/PLS/mlr:jls